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THE *Livestock and Wool* SITUATION

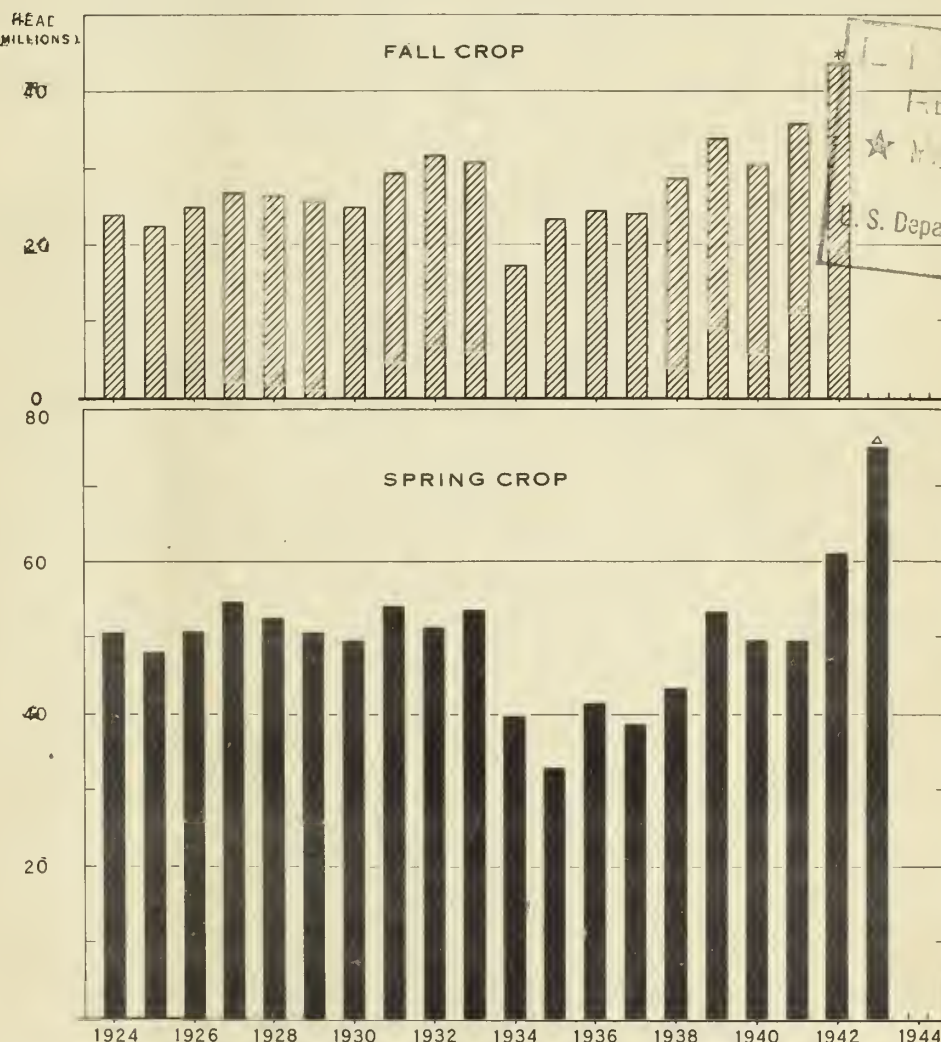
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LWS-9

BAC

JANUARY 1943

SPRING AND FALL PIG CROPS, UNITED STATES, 1924-43



* PRELIMINARY

^Δ BASED ON NUMBER OF SOWS INDICATED TO FARROW IN THE SPRING OF 1943 AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF PIGS SAVED PER LITTER DURING THE PAST 6 YEARS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Hog production in 1943 will greatly exceed that of any previous year. The 1942 fall pig crop totaled 43.7 million head, 23 percent above the preceding record fall crop in 1941; the number of hogs more than 6 months old on December 1, 1942 was the largest on record; and the number of sows indicated to farrow this spring is 24 percent above the spring farrowings in 1942. If the indicated farrowings are realized and an average number of pigs is saved per litter, the 1943 spring pig crop will total about 75 million head.

HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO, CHICAGO, SOWS FARROWED DURING SPRING AND FALL, AND AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT OF HOGS SLAUGHTERED, UNITED STATES, 1924-43



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 42078

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Figure 1.- Changes in the hog-corn price ratio are important in determining hog production. The size of the spring pig crop is associated with the hog-corn price ratio during the preceding fall. The ratio last fall was the most favorable since 1924, and farmers have indicated a large increase in spring farrowings in 1943. The average live weight of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection during 1942 was the heaviest on record, reflecting the favorable relationship between hog and corn prices.

THE LIVESTOCK AND WOOL SITUATION

Summary

Slaughter supplies of hogs in 1943 are expected to be much larger than in any past year. According to the December pig crop report, the 1942 pig crop totaled nearly 105 million head, 24 percent more than the 1941 crop; breeding intentions reported by farmers on December 1 indicate an additional 24 percent increase in the 1943 spring crop. This increase in farrowings will contribute to increased marketings in the last quarter of the year. Despite the prospective large increase in slaughter supplies in 1943, hog prices are expected to continue strong through the year.

Inspected hog slaughter in December totaled 6.8 million head, the largest monthly total on record. However, hog supplies so far in the 1942-43 marketing year have been running smaller than appeared probable on the basis of the record large 1942 spring pig crop. Inspected slaughter in the October-December quarter totaled only 11 percent larger than a year earlier. Some factors which may account for the smaller than expected increase in marketings include: Feeding of hogs to heavy weights, delaying marketings; and the holding back of more sows for breeding purposes this winter than last.

Slaughter supplies of grain-fed cattle are expected to be smaller than a year earlier for the next 2 or 3 months. But with the number of cattle on feed January 1 somewhat larger than a year earlier and the largest on record, supplies during the late spring and early summer probably will be larger. Price ceilings recently revised by the Office of Price Administration allow only a moderate premium for the top grades of beef, and the number of cattle fed to a high degree of finish probably will be small. Total cattle slaughter in 1943, however, probably will be larger than in 1942. Cattle prices in 1943 are expected to continue at or near recent high levels.

The number of sheep and lambs on feed January 1 was 2 percent smaller than the record number a year earlier. The number on feed in the Corn Belt was larger this year than last, but this increase was a little more than offset by decreases in several Western States, particularly in the important feeding areas of Colorado. Slaughter supplies of fed lambs during the late winter and spring probably will not differ greatly from a year earlier. Volume of marketings of sheep and lambs in the remainder of 1943 will depend upon the size of this year's lamb crop and upon whether the heavy marketings of mature sheep continue.

Mill consumption of apparel wool for civilian fabrics in the first half of 1943 will be somewhat larger than in the latter 6 months of 1942 if mills make full use of civilian quotas for the new rationing period which begins February 1. Since early 1942, consumption of wool for civilian use has been limited to specific percentages of consumption in the first half of 1941. The quantity of wool used for civilian goods during 1942 was roughly one-half the 1935-39 average. Mill consumption of apparel wool for combined military and civilian uses totaled 969 million pounds (greasy shorn and pulled basis) in the first 11 months of 1942, about 100 million pounds more than in the corresponding period of 1941. Consumption has been at a record high level during most of the past 2 years because of large military orders. Prices of domestic wool were mostly unchanged through the first week of January. Prospects are for little change in 1943, with prices remaining close to ceiling levels.

— January 18, 1943

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Hog Prices Strengthen Since Early December

Hog prices have fluctuated sharply in recent weeks. Prices in early January were higher than a month earlier but below the high level reached in early October. One of the most noticeable trends in hog prices during recent weeks has been the widening of the price spread between butcher hogs and sows. For the week ended January 9 this spread was 60 cents, compared with 5 cents a month earlier. The average cost of all hogs at Chicago for the week ended January 9 was \$14.50, compared with \$13.55 in early December and \$11.30 a year earlier.

Although hog prices in early January were higher than in early December, the advance was accompanied by rising corn prices, and the hog-corn price ratio was little changed from a month earlier. The ratio based upon Chicago prices for the week ended January 9 was 15.2 compared with 15.3 a month earlier.

Hog Slaughter Declines in Late December

Weekly rate of hog marketings declined during the holiday season to the lowest level since mid-November. Although hog slaughter during December was unusually large, the full increase in the 1942 spring pig crop has not yet shown up on the market. Reports from farmers on December 1 indicated that the number of hogs over 6 months old on farms on that date was much larger than a year earlier. Hogs now coming to market are somewhat heavier than last year. Apparently a much larger than usual proportion of the spring pig crop is still on farms.

Inspected hog slaughter in December reached a new monthly record of 6.8 million head, 35 percent larger than in November and 18 percent above a year earlier. Inspected hog slaughter in 1942 totaled 53.9 million head, 16 percent more than in 1941 and slightly above the previous record of 1923. Despite these large marketings, the capacity of slaughtering plants has not yet been a problem in handling the winter run of hogs.

Prices of Lower Grade Cattle Advance, Marketings Decline

Prices of the lower grades of slaughter cattle have advanced since early December. Prices of upper grade cattle fluctuated moderately during the past month but continue near the levels of early December. Average price of Good grade beef steers at Chicago for the week ended January 9 was \$15.00 per hundredweight, compared with \$14.95 a month earlier and \$12.75 a year earlier. Prices of feeder cattle have continued about steady since mid-December, but market receipts have declined in recent weeks. The average price of feeder steers at Kansas City in early January was \$12.40 compared with \$11.95 in early December.

Marketings of cattle have declined seasonally since October and calf slaughter has been reduced considerably since early December. During the holiday period, the weekly rate of inspected cattle and calf slaughter

declined to the lowest level since 1940. Inspected cattle slaughter in December totaled 1 million head, 4 percent less than in November and 2 percent below a year earlier. Inspected calf slaughter in December totaled 476,000 head, 5 percent less than in November but 4 percent more than in December 1941. The number of cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection during 1942 totaled 12.3 million head, the largest yearly slaughter on record. This compares with the total of 10.9 million in 1941. Inspected slaughter of calves last year totaled 5.8 million head, which was more than in 1941 but below the 1937 record total of 6.3 million head.

Import Quotas on Mexican Cattle Removed

Quota restrictions on all classes of cattle imported from Mexico will be removed effective January 30 under the new trade agreement announced this month between United States and Mexico. An earlier agreement with Canada, which became effective January 1, 1939, limited imports of heavy cattle (700 pounds up) at the reduced rate of duty of 1-1/2 cents per pound from countries other than Canada (chiefly Mexico) to not more than 8,280 head quarterly or 31,050 head annually. All entries in excess of the quotas were required to pay the full duty of 3 cents per pound. Most of the cattle imported from Mexico are feeder cattle (200 to 699 pounds), however, on which the duty has been 2 cents per pound. The new agreement will permit the unrestricted import of Mexican cattle at the reduced rate of 1-1/2 cents per pound, regardless of weight.

For many years United States has been the principal foreign market for Mexican cattle, and during recent years exports to the United States have been about half as large as the commercial cattle slaughter in Mexico. However, exports from Mexico probably will not be increased greatly by the reduction in duty, because the United States has received nearly all of Mexico's exportable surplus of cattle in recent years.

Table 1.-- Annual exports of cattle from Mexico, 1934-42

Year	Total	Exports to United States
	Number	Number
1934	60,413	59,739
1935	264,727	264,330
1936	176,787	176,465
1937	192,928	192,764
1938	293,169	292,890
1939	541,187	540,893
1940	417,996	417,960
1941	543,705	542,701
1942	1/ 450,000	

1/ Preliminary estimate.

Prices of Sheep and Lambs Advance;
December Slaughter Large

Lamb prices have advanced since mid-December to the highest level since 1929. The average price of Good and Choice grade slaughter lambs at Chicago in early January was \$15.70 per hundredweight, compared with \$15.20 in mid-December and \$12.75 a year earlier. Prices of slaughter ewes have advanced since early December, when the original price ceilings were removed. In early January prices of Good and Choice grade slaughter ewes at Chicago averaged about \$8.15, compared with \$7.55 in early December.

Inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs declined in late December to the lowest weekly rate since last summer, but slaughter for the month was unusually large, totaling 2.2 million head, 2 percent larger than in November and 38 percent above a year earlier. Inspected slaughter in 1942 totaled 21.6 million head, 3.5 million more than in 1941 and 4.0 million more than the 1937-41 average. Although the 1942 lamb crop was unusually large, the record slaughter was accomplished by liquidation of many ewes and ewe lambs which ordinarily would have been retained as breeding stock. The proportion of sheep in total slaughter accounted for a considerable part of the increased slaughter. Sheep made up over 20 percent of the inspected slaughter in November compared with 9 percent a year earlier.

Purchases of Meats and Meat Products by
USDA in 1941 and 1942

Purchases of pork products by the Department of Agriculture for lend-lease, Red Cross, and other distribution during 1942 totaled a little more than 1.5 billion pounds, compared with the 1941 total of slightly less than 500 million pounds. Converted to a dressed weight basis, 1942 purchases were equivalent to approximately 25 percent of the pork produced under Federal inspection during the year.

About twice as much lard and rendered pork fat was purchased by the Department of Agriculture last year as in 1941. As shown by the accompanying table, inspected lard production was about 175 million pounds larger than in 1941, this increase partly offsetting the 100 percent increase in purchases.

Practically no beef, veal, lamb, or mutton were purchased for lend-lease or other distribution by the Department of Agriculture in 1941. Purchases of these meats were stepped up sharply in 1942, but they still represented a relatively small part of the year's production. More than half of the 1942 beef purchases was included in the meat portion of canned rations.

Meat products purchased by the Government for lend-lease must meet Federal requirements. Hence, procurement can be made only from plants operating under Federal inspection. Last year's purchases of meat and lard represented about 15 percent of the federally inspected production of these products, but they were equivalent to only about 10 percent of the total output including the production from farm, local, and noninspected wholesale slaughter.

Table 2.- Summary of purchases of meat products by the
Department of Agriculture, 1941 and 1942

Item	1941	1942
	Million pounds	Million pounds
<u>Purchases, actual weight 1/</u>		
Pork - Canned	224.8	1,008.0
Cured and frozen		
Hams and shoulders	94.1	105.7
Loins .....	.0	107.0
Bellies and jowls	117.0	108.8
Plates and backs	9.0	105.3
Wiltshire sides	24.7	123.1
Miscellaneous cuts .....	.0	18.8
Trimnings .....	.0	4.0
Offal	5.2	5.2
Total	474.8	1,585.9
Beef - Canned	0.0	2.1
Cured and frozen .....	.7	11.2
Offal .....	.0	3.5
Total .....	.7	16.8
Veal, frozen carcasses	0.1	2.2
Lamb and mutton, frozen carcasses	2/	39.2
Canned rations	3.4	32.7
Miscellaneous sausage products .....	.0	1.7
Lard and rendered pork fat	326.2	654.0
Beef tallow products	2/	21.5
<u>Purchases, dressed weight equivalent 3/</u>		
Pork	559.6	1,898.0
Beef	2.4	42.2
Veal	0.1	2.2
Lamb and mutton	2/	39.2
<u>Federally inspected production (dressed weight)</u>		
Pork	6,344.6	4/ 7,600.0
Beef	5,739.2	4/ 6,320.0
Veal	599.1	4/ 675.0
Lamb and mutton	750.1	4/ 880.0
Lard	1,525.9	4/ 1,705.0
<u>Purchases as percentage of inspected production</u>	Percent	Percent
Pork	8.8	25.0
Beef	2/	.7
Veal	2/	.3
Lamb and mutton	2/	4.5
Lard and rendered pork fat	21.4	38.4

1/ Based upon unpublished data compiled by the Livestock and Meats Branch, Food Distribution Administration.

2/ Less than 50,000 pounds.

3/ Excludes miscellaneous products not ordinarily included in dressed weight production figures, but includes meat portion of manufactured products converted to dressed weight basis.

4/ Preliminary.

Storage Holdings of Pork and Lard
Increase Seasonally in December

The net in-storage movement of pork during December amounted to 196 million pounds, raising pork stocks on January 1 to 488 million pounds. Although the January 1 figure was slightly larger than the 469 million pounds in storage on that date last year, it was smaller than the January 1 average for 1931-40 and was small compared with the record December hog slaughter.

Cold-storage holdings of lard and rendered pork fat increased from 57 million pounds on December 1 to 91 million pounds on January 1. January 1 stocks were only about half as large as a year earlier and were considerably below average for that date.

OUTLOOK - HOGS

BACKGROUND.- Hog production in 1943 is expected to be substantially larger than the record 1942 production. In mid-October farmers were asked to increase their 1943 spring farrowings by 10 percent, but because of the increasing demand for hog products, 1943 hog goals were revised upward in late November and an increase of 15 percent over this year's record pig crop was requested. At the same time a price-support program designed to assure farmers a continued high price for hogs through September 1944 was announced. Attainment of 1943 goals has been greatly facilitated by the favorable hog-corn price ratio during the past year as well as by the large supply of feed grains, especially corn, now available to hog producers. The goal for hog slaughter this year calls for slaughter of about 100 million hogs, compared with an estimated slaughter of about 80 million in 1942 and a 1936-40 average of 63 million. Farmers have been asked also to increase by at least 10 pounds the average weight of hogs slaughtered.

1942 Pig Crop Largest on Record

The 1942 pig crop totaled nearly 105 million head, 24 percent larger than the 1941 crop and about 44 percent above the 1931-40 average. Farrowings in both the spring and fall seasons were larger in all areas than in 1941. The greatest increase (65 percent of the total) occurred in the North Central States, where 21 percent more pigs were saved than in 1941. The spring pig crop is estimated at slightly over 61 million head, 24 percent larger than in 1941 and the largest on record. The fall crop totaled 43.7 million head, 23 percent larger than the previous record fall crop in 1941 and 60 percent above the 1931-40 average.

Record Large 1943 Spring Pig Crop Indicated

Based upon breeding intentions reported by farmers about December 1 and upon the relationship between breeding intentions and subsequent farrowings in other years, the number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1943 is indicated to be over 12 million head, 24 percent larger than the 1942 spring farrowings and 59 percent above the 1931-40 average. If an average number of pigs is saved per litter, the 1943 spring crop would total about 75 million pigs. This would exceed the average combined spring and fall crops during the period 1931-40. Most of the expected increase in farrowings is in the North Central

States, particularly the western Corn Belt where more than half of the total increase will occur. Even with the expected increase, farrowings in some of the West North Central States will be lower than in pre-drought years.

Table 3.- Sows farrowed during the spring season, by regions,
1931-40 average, 1940-43

Region	1931-40 average	1940	1941	1942	1943 1/	1943 as percentage of 1942
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Percent
North Central States :						
East	1,886	2,303	2,120	2,467	2,965	120
West	3,780	3,791	3,706	4,686	5,905	126
Total	5,666	6,094	5,826	7,153	8,870	124
Other regions :						
North Atlantic	125	144	118	144	195	136
South Atlantic	527	575	519	634	770	122
South Central	1,001	1,083	959	1,313	1,655	126
West	288	347	314	424	537	127
Total	1,941	2,149	1,910	2,515	3,157	126
United States total :	7,607	8,243	7,736	9,668	12,027	124

1/ Indicated December 1, 1942.

Hog Slaughter in 1943 Expected to Set New High Record

Hog slaughter under Federal inspection in 1943 may total more than 70 million head and total slaughter may reach the goal of about 100 million head, on the basis of the December 1 pig crop report. This compares with a total inspected slaughter of 53.9 million head in 1942 and the previous record of 53.3 million in 1923.

A forecast of federally inspected hog slaughter at this time is complicated by several factors. The meat limitation order now in effect restricts meat sales to civilians by commercial slaughterers during the first quarter of 1943 to 70 percent of their deliveries in the same period of 1941. Since noninspected plants cannot sell to Government procurement agencies, slaughter by these firms is in effect limited to this percentage. Assuming that this limitation or its equivalent will continue in effect for the entire year, a somewhat larger than usual proportion of the commercial hog slaughter will be diverted to federally inspected plants. Recently there has been a considerable shift of packing plants to the inspected category under the Fulmer Act which permits plants not ordinarily doing an interstate business to have Federal inspection.

The full 24 percent increase in the 1942 spring pig crop has not yet shown up at the market. The December 1 report from farmers indicated there was then a much larger number of hogs over 6 months old on farms than a year

earlier. Considerable numbers of hogs apparently have been held on farms. The estimate of hog numbers on farms on January 1 (to be published in mid-February) will give some indication of how much holding back has occurred and of the number of hogs to be marketed during the late winter and spring. An unusually large number of hogs probably will be marketed in February and March.

Price Ceilings Placed on Corn; Provisions
Made to Increase Corn Supply

Corn prices advanced sharply during late December and early January. On January 13 the Office of Price Administration established temporary ceiling prices for corn at the highest prices prevailing on January 11 at terminal markets and at the highest prices paid during the period January 8 to 12 at local markets. With little prospect for higher hog prices because of ceilings on pork and lard prices, increased corn prices would have resulted in a lowering of the hog-corn price ratio. Within 60 days, a permanent regulation based upon approximately \$1.00 per bushel for No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago will be issued. With the ceiling on corn prices and the support price of \$13.25 per hundredweight for Good and Choice grade hogs weighing 240 to 270 pounds, the hog-corn price ratio, Chicago basis, probably will not fall below 13.2. This is moderately higher than the long-time average of 11.6, generally considered the breakingpoint between a favorable and an unfavorable ratio.

The Department of Agriculture has issued regulations which will permit Corn Belt farmers cooperating in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program to overplant their 1943 corn allotments without penalty, provided they have planted up to their goals in war crops. Corn loans in 1943 will be made at the full rate outside commercial corn areas, wherever farm storage is feasible. These changes take into account the indicated increase in the 1943 spring pig crop and the need for sufficient feed grains for a continued large livestock production.

Table 4.- Hog and corn prices and hog-corn price ratios at
Chicago, specified periods

Period or assumed price level	Price of hogs : per 100 pounds: : Dollars	Price of No. 3 Yellow: corn per bushel : Cents	Hog-corn price : ratio
1924-41	8.26	73.6	11.4
1941	9.45	70.4	13.4
1942	13.70	83.3	16.4
September 1942	14.45	84.1	17.2
October 1942	14.98	77.3	19.4
November 1942	13.96	80.5	17.3
December 1942	14.01	89.4	15.7
Week ended -	:	:	:
January 9, 1943	14.49	95.1	15.2
Hogs at support	:	:	:
level, corn at	:	:	:
ceiling	1/ 13.25	100.0	13.2

1/ The Department of Agriculture has insured a price level of \$13.25 average, Chicago basis, for Good and Choice grade butcher hogs weighing 240 to 270 pounds until September 30, 1944.

Hog Prices Expected to Continue Near
Recent High Levels

Although hog slaughter will be very large, wartime demand is expected to prevent a large price decline. However, in recent weeks, hog prices have been rather sensitive to changes in slaughter supplies, and a large increase in marketings might result in somewhat lower prices. Prices of Good and Choice grade heavy butcher hogs (240-270 pounds) at Chicago will be supported at \$13.25 by the Department of Agriculture. Consequently, hog prices during 1943 are expected to fluctuate above this minimum level (other markets may be lower or higher, depending on market differentials) and below the high levels reached last fall.

OUTLOOK - CATTLE

BACKGROUND.-- Cattle and calf slaughter in 1942 was the largest on record, but numbers on farms at the beginning of 1943 probably were larger than in any previous year. The wartime need for meats is great. Taking into account the probable supply of cattle, 1943 slaughter goal for cattle and calves was set at a little over 30 million head. In May 1942 beef price ceilings were established at the highest March prices. In December the price ceilings were changed to a specific dollars and cents basis, with regional and grade differentials. The strong demand for beef has held live cattle prices near the highest levies permitted by beef ceilings.

Cattle on Feed January 1 Largest on Record

Cattle feeding operations during the 1941-42 feeding season will be larger than in any previous year. According to reports received from farmers, the number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt States on January 1 this year was 8 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest on record. The increase in the Corn Belt was partly offset by a decrease of 11 percent in the 11 Western States, but for the country as a whole the number on feed January 1 was larger than on that date in any previous year. Cattle feeding was reduced in all Western States except California, but in other States where cattle feeding is important the number on feed was larger than last year. Much of the increase in the Corn Belt occurred in States west of the Missouri River, where corn supplies this year were up to levels of the pre-drought period.

Reports from the Corn Belt indicate that the increases in cattle feeding this year result from an increase in the number of farms feeding cattle rather than from an increase in feeding by regular cattle feeders. Shipments of feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during December were smaller than a year earlier, but the movement during the last 6 months of 1942 was materially larger than in 1941 and about the same as in 1939 and 1940.

Large Cattle Slaughter Expected in 1943

On the basis of the reported weights of cattle on feed this January 1 compared with last, it appears that a much smaller number of fed cattle will be marketed in January and February than a year earlier, but more will be marketed

in March and later months. There was a relatively large carry-over of long-fed cattle on farms on January 1, 1942, which resulted in heavy marketings during the early part of the year.

Although the number of cattle on feed on January 1, 1943 was larger than a year earlier, it appears that the number of long-fed, well-finished cattle marketed in 1943 will be smaller than last year. Present beef price ceilings permit only a moderate premium for highly finished beef, and the number of cattle fed to heavy weights probably will be small.

The 1943 cattle and calf slaughter goal is a little over 30 million head, including more than 20 million cattle and 10 million calves. The number of cattle and calves on farms at the beginning of the year was probably the largest on record, and the slaughter goal can be reached without impairing a large production in future years. The number of cattle and calves slaughtered this year will depend to a considerable extent upon whether the tendency to hold back cattle and calves for herd-building purposes continues in 1943.

Weather and range feed conditions may be important factors affecting marketings from the Western States during the coming year. Ranges are believed by some to be stocked nearly to capacity. If weather conditions are less favorable than in the preceding 2 years, rather heavy marketings from this area might result. Cattle numbers in the Corn Belt and many of the Eastern States are much larger than any other year, and with labor shortages and other production problems becoming increasingly acute, heavy marketings from these States also may occur.

Cattle Price Outlook Favorable in 1943

Cattle prices in 1943 may continue near recent levels. Revised beef price ceilings have been in effect long enough to give some indication as to what live cattle prices the beef ceilings may reflect. On the basis of present prices, it appears that prices of lower grade cattle will average near or above those generally prevailing last fall, but that prices of the upper grades may continue near the December level. The strong wartime demand for all meats is expected to hold live cattle prices during 1943 to near the maximum levels permitted by beef price ceilings even though marketings should be exceptionally large.

OUTLOOK - SHEEP AND LAMBS

BACKGROUND.- Number of sheep on farms at the beginning of 1942 was the largest on record. However, because of unfavorable weather conditions during lambing time, the lamb crop was a little smaller than the 1941 crop. Marketings of sheep and lambs were increased sharply during the fall and winter because many ewes and ewe lambs which ordinarily would be kept in breeding flocks were slaughtered. Sheep and lamb slaughter since July has been by far the largest on record. Despite this large slaughter, lamb prices in recent months have been maintained at the highest level reached in more than 10 years. Ceiling prices for lamb were established in August 1942.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed January 1 Large

Number of sheep and lambs on feed for market on January 1 totaled about 6.8 million head, 2 percent smaller than a year earlier but larger than any other year. The number on feed in the Corn Belt amounted to about 4.2 million head, 3 percent larger than a year earlier, but this increase was more than offset by a decrease in other areas. Number on feed in the Western States was smaller than a year earlier in all States except California, the decline being especially sharp in Colorado.

Weather conditions on January 1 in the Corn Belt States were generally favorable for lamb feeding operations, but late December storms in the Southern Great Plains area temporarily delayed marketings. Excessive moisture in November and December in most of the Intermountain and North Pacific States was unfavorable to pasture and open lot feeding. Reports from all Western States indicate that the condition of range sheep on January 1 was slightly below average for that date.

Table 5.- Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, by regions, 1935-43

Year :	Corn Belt :	Western States :	New York :	Total
:	:	:	:	: United States
:	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>
1935 :	3,370	2,249	50	5,669
1936 :	3,262	2,339	50	5,701
1937 :	2,793	2,754	50	5,597
1938 :	3,281	2,765	45	6,091
1939 :	3,201	2,639	45	5,885
1940 :	3,159	2,642	40	5,841
1941 :	3,681	2,744	54	6,479
1942 :	3,898	2,985	45	6,928
1943 :	4,226	2,506	49	6,781

Sheep Slaughter in 1943 May Be Large;
Prices to Continue High

Slaughter of fed sheep and lambs during the next few months may be smaller than a year earlier because of the smaller number on feed. Usually there is a rather close relationship between the number of sheep and lambs on feed January 1 and marketings for slaughter from January through April. However, with some liquidation of breeding stock apparently continuing into 1943, total slaughter during this period may be larger than a year earlier.

Attainment of the 1943 slaughter goal for sheep and lambs of 24.1 million head will result in some further reduction in sheep and lamb numbers. Apparently shortages, especially of skilled labor, have caused much of the liquidation since last summer, and if such marketings continue during 1943, slaughter would be unusually large and sheep numbers would be considerably reduced.

Prices of sheep and lambs in 1943 are expected to continue near or above the levels of last December. Sheep prices relative to the December

average probably will continue higher than lamb prices. But with the prospective strong demand for meats, prices of both sheep and lambs should continue near the maximum permitted by price ceilings.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Wool Prices Mostly Unchanged in Past Month

Quoted prices for low 1/4 blood and coarser domestic wools at Boston advanced 1 to 2 cents a pound (grease basis) in late December. Prices of other grades were mostly unchanged through the second week of January. The awarding of Government contracts from time to time resulted in sales of domestic and foreign wools, but quantities sold were relatively small. Quoted prices for fine staple combing territory wools remained unchanged at \$1.18-\$1.20 a pound (scoured basis) through the first week of January compared with \$1.16 a pound a year earlier. Quoted prices on 3/8 blood combing fleece wools were unchanged at 53 cents a pound (grease basis) compared with 51.5 cents a pound in January 1941. Market prices of wool have been under ceilings since December 18, 1941, and prices have been close to ceiling levels during a good part of this time.

Average price received by farmers for wool on December 15 was 39.7 cents a pound, unchanged since September. The December price was 2.6 cents a pound higher than a year earlier. With prices of most wools close to ceiling levels, prices in 1943 are not expected to change greatly.

Australian Wools Sold at Boston Auctions; Prices Slightly Below Ceilings

Two auctions of water damaged Australian wool were held at Boston during the past month for account of the Defense Supplies Corporation. About 4.6 million pounds were offered on December 18 and 3.8 million pounds on January 5. All wools were sold; a few lots passed up on first bidding were reoffered and sold at the close of the auction. Wools grading 64s and finer sold mostly at ceiling prices, figured at present British Control prices plus importing costs and a 10 percent mark-up for protection of dealers. Prices on wools grading 60s-64s and 58s-60s averaged 4 cents and 2 cents per pound, respectively, below ceilings at the January sale.

United States Will Purchase Wool Carry-Over to Bolster Uruguay Economy

The United States Government will purchase the unsold balance of about 30 million pounds of Uruguay wool from the 1941-42 clip and will also take a portion of the 1942-43 clip if the wool remains unsold on June 30, 1943. The purchase is being handled by the Defense Supplies Corporation. It is being made to strengthen the economy of this South American country. Wool is one of Uruguay's chief exports and sources of foreign exchange. Before the war more than four-fifths of the wool clip was exported to continental European countries, Japan, and the United Kingdom. With these markets largely cut off, disposal of the clip has presented a difficult problem. United States dealers and manufacturers took

a large quantity of wool from Uruguay in 1940-41 but this demand dropped sharply in 1942, and large stocks remained on hand in Uruguay at the beginning of the new season on October 1, 1942.

Mill Consumption Continues at Near Record
Rate in November

Mill consumption of apparel wool averaged 11.1 million pounds a week (scoured basis) in November, compared with 11.3 million pounds in October and the record July average of 11.5 million pounds. The November rate of consumption was 9 percent higher than in November 1941. More than half of the wool consumed in November was domestic wool, the highest proportion since January 1941. The requirement that Army orders placed in September and October be filled with domestic wools probably accounts for the increased use of these wools.

Consumption of apparel wool on a greasy shorn and pulled basis totaled 969 million pounds in the first 11 months of 1942, about 100 million pounds larger than in the corresponding period of 1941. About 478 million pounds of domestic wool were used. Consumption for 1942 was well over a billion pounds, a new record.

Consumption of carpet wool totaled 55 million pounds (grease basis) in the first 11 months of 1942, less than one-third as large as in the same months last year. Carpet wool is not used extensively for military purposes and consumption for civilian use is limited by conservation orders of the War Production Board.

1942-43 CIVILIAN WOOL CONSUMPTION QUOTAS 1/

Mill Consumption for Civilian Use May Be
Increased in First Half of 1943

Mill consumption of wool for civilian fabrics will be somewhat larger in the first half of 1943 than in the second half of 1942 if mills make full use of civilian quotas for the new rationing period which begins February 1. The increase is limited to the worsted section. Quotas for the woollen section and for the manufacture of floor coverings remain unchanged.

In the 6 months February 1-July 31, 1943, a worsted manufacturer may use an amount of wool equal to 30 percent of his basic quarterly poundage 2/ in the production of fabrics for civilian use without restriction as to fiber content, and in addition he may use 40 percent of his basic poundage in the production of blended fabrics containing not more than 65 percent of new wool. In the 6 months, August 1942 through January 1943,

1/ Wool is defined by the War Production Board for the purpose of Conservation Order M-73 to include fiber of the sheep or lamb, or hair of the cashmere goat or camel, or the alpaca, llana, vicuna and related fibers, but does not include nolls or reworked or reused wool or mohair. Until August 14, 1942 mohair was included.

2/ Basic quarterly poundage equals one-half the quantity used by the manufacturer in the first 6 months of 1941.

the quota was 25 percent of the basic poundage for unrestricted use and 30 percent for blended fabrics. The 6-months quota for woolen mills remains unchanged at 5 percent of the basic poundage for unrestricted use and 25 percent for production of blended fabrics. These percentages may be increased by the use of coarse wools (not finer than 44s) and certain special fibers. It is estimated that the quantity of wool used for civilian goods during 1942 was roughly one-half the 1935-39 average.

Civilian Quotas Based on Mill Consumption
in January-June, 1941

Mill consumption of apparel wool has been at a record high level throughout most of the past 2 years because of large military orders. Since early 1942, consumption for civilian use has been limited to specific percentages of consumption in the first half of 1941. During the first quarter of 1942, consumption by the worsted section was limited to 50 percent of the basic quarterly poundage and consumption by the woolen section was limited to 40 percent.

Consumption of wool was at a relatively high level in 1941. A comparison of mill consumption of apparel and carpet wool for the 1941 base period with that of 1935-39 is shown in table 6. The 1941 rate was 71 percent higher than the 1935-39 average for the worsted section and 81 percent higher for the woolen section.

Table 6.- Mill consumption of apparel and carpet wool, scoured basis,
United States, average 1935-39, January-June 1941

Class and system	: 1935-39 average :		: Jan.-June 1941 :		: Percent 1941 rate is of 1935-39 average :
	Yearly	Quarterly	Total	Quarterly	
	: 1,000 lb.	: 1,000 lb.	: 1,000 lb.	: 1,000 lb.	: Percent
Apparel wool					
Worsted system	191,170	47,792	162,990	81,495	171
Woolen system	89,960	22,490	81,630	40,815	181
Total	281,130	70,282	244,620	122,310	174
Carpet wool	95,960	23,990	68,610	34,305	143

Compiled from wool consumption reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 7.- Estimated basic quarterly poundage by systems 1/

Item	: Derived from consumption of :		Total
	Wool	Mohair and other	
	:(sheep and lamb):	animal hair <u>2/</u> :	
	: Mil. lb.	: Mil. lb.	: Mil. lb.
Worsted	81.5	6.0	87.5
Woolen <u>3/</u>	40.8	1.5	42.3
Floor coverings	34.3	2.0	36.3

1/ One half the quantity consumed in the first half of 1941.

2/ Estimates based on Census of Manufactures and other information.

3/ Includes cotton and felt systems.

The quotas were sharply reduced during the second quarter of 1942 and the reduced rate was continued through July. In the last 5 months of 1942 and through January 1943 the quotas were further reduced, but through bonuses provided for blending other fibers with wool the total quantities available were increased slightly over those of the previous period. The percentages for the several rationing periods are shown in table 8, as reported in Conservation Order M-73 and also converted to an equivalent quarterly basis.

Table 8.- Wool: Mill quotas for civilian use, 1942-43, expressed as a percentage of basic quarterly poundage 1/

Period	Quota for period 2/			Quarterly rate (approximate)		
	Worsted	Woolen, cotton, or felt	Floor coverings	Worsted	Woolen, cotton, etc.	Floor coverings
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1942 -						
Jan. 4-Apr. 4 3/	50	40	50	50	40	50
Apr. 5-July 4 4/	20	10	25	20	10	25
July 5-Aug. 2 4/	6	3	7	20	10	23
Aug. 3-Jan. 31, 1943						
Quota	20	5	50	10	2.5	25
Bonus 5/	25	25	---	12.5	12.5	---
Supplementary 6/						
Quota	5	---	---	2.5	---	---
Bonus 5/	5	---	---	2.5	---	---
6 months total 4/	55	30	50	27.5	15	25
1943 -						
Feb. 1-May 2						
Quota	15	2.5	25	15	2.5	25
Bonus 5/	20	12.5	---	20	12.5	---
May 3-July 31						
Quota	15	2.5	25	15	2.5	25
Bonus 5/	20	12.5	---	20	12.5	---
6 months total 4/	70	30	50	35	15	25

1/ Basic quarterly poundage equals one-half the quantity used for all purposes during the first 6 months of 1941.

2/ As stated in Wool Conservation Order M-73 and amendments.

3/ The order for the first 3 months of 1942 provides that aggregate of defense and nondefense orders should not exceed 80 percent of basic poundage unless specifically authorized by Director of Priorities. But unlimited production was permitted to firms working only on defense orders.

4/ For all systems except floor coverings quotas may be increased in proportion to the amount of coarse wools used (wools grading 44s and coarser and coarse alpaca and llama).

5/ May be used only in blended fabrics with a maximum wool content of 65 percent.

6/ Consumption Order M-73 as amended December 10, 1942.

With data on mill consumption during the base period (January-June 1941) and maximum percentages to be used during each consumption period it is possible to estimate maximum civilian consumption quotas for raw wool for 1942 and the early part of 1943. These estimates are shown in table 9. The quotas for the various periods are shown in three parts:

(1) The basic quota.

This quantity may be used without restrictions as to grades or fiber content of fabrics produced.

(2) Bonus for blending.

This quantity is in addition to the basic quota. It may be used only in the production of fabrics in which new wool is blended with reworked and reused wool and with other fibers, with a maximum new wool content of 65 percent.

(3) Bonus for use of coarse wools.

Wool conservation order M-73 provides that with the use of each pound of wool grading 44s and coarser and coarse alpaca and llama, the mill shall be entitled to use in addition to its quota 2 pounds of such material if operating on the worsted system and 5 pounds of such material if operating on the woolen system. This bonus does not apply to quotas based on wool used in the production of floor coverings.

Table 9.- Wool, scoured basis: Estimated maximum civilian quotas, 1942-43

Period	Worsted system		Woolen system		Floor coverings	
	Mil.	lb.	Mil.	lb.	Mil.	lb.
1942						
January 4-April 4 <u>1/</u>	43.8		16.9		18.2	
April 5-July 4						
Quota	17.5		4.2		<u>2/</u> 9.1	
Bonus (Coarse wool) <u>3/</u>	4.6		2.9		---	
July 5-August 2						
Quota	5.2		1.3		2.5	
Bonus (Coarse wool) <u>4/</u>	1.2		1.1		---	
August 3-January 31, 1943						
Quota	17.5		2.1		18.2	
Bonus (Blending)	21.9		10.6		---	
Bonus (Coarse wool)	5.4		<u>5/</u> 5.3		---	
Supplementary						
Quota	4.4		---		---	
Bonus (Blending)	4.4		---		---	
Bonus (Coarse wool)	1.2		---		---	
Total January 4, 1942-January 31, 1943	<u>127.1</u>		<u>44.4</u>		<u>6/</u> 48.0	
1943						
February 1-May 2						
Quota	13.1		1.1		9.1	
Bonus (Blending)	17.5		5.3		---	
Bonus (Coarse wool)	3.0		2.0		---	
May 3-July 31						
Quota	13.1		1.1		9.1	
Bonus (Blending)	17.5		5.3		---	
Bonus (Coarse wool)	3.0		2.0		---	
6 months total	<u>67.2</u>		<u>16.8</u>		<u>6/</u> 18.2	

1/ Quantity used for civilian consumption may have fallen below quota due to provision that mills could not use more than 80 percent of basic poundage for combined civilian and military consumption. Actual consumption of apparel wool for 3 months totaled 139.3 million pounds, somewhat larger than the basic quarterly poundage for the woolen and worsted system of about 129.8 million pounds.

2/ Use of wool for floor coverings, draperies, and upholstery fabrics except for war use was halted April 17 and not resumed until June 2. However consumption of carpet wool reported for quarter was in excess of basic poundage so it appears that mills were able to process most of quota during time allowed.

Continued -

Table 9.- Wool, scoured basis: Estimated maximum civilian quotas, 1942-43 - Continued

3/ Beginning June 2 mills having a quota based on production of floor coverings were permitted to use a part of such quota to produce other fabrics, but the wools so used could not be finer than 44s. Wools grading 44s and coarser and coarse alpaca and llama used by carpet mills under above provision would not entitle mill to bonus awarded worsted and woolen systems for use of such wools. It seems likely that the quantity of such wool used by carpet mills in the final month of rationing period was relatively small. Hence total use of 44s and coarser, apparel class, is credited to worsted and woolen systems for this period.

4/ Reported consumption of carpet wool exceeds quota for period, and total consumption of 36s-44s is credited to worsted and woolen sections as in previous period (see note 3/).

5/ Assumes that about 2 million pounds of 36s-44s of reported consumption were processed in carpet mills and did not carry bonus of 5/1.

6/ This is the maximum quota based on quarterly poundage for floor coverings. The quantity actually used for floor coverings would be reduced to the extent that carpet mills produced "other fabrics" from wools not finer than 44s.

Estimated Maximum Quotas for 1942-43

The quantities in table 9 represent the maximum quantities which mills could process for civilian use under Conservation Order M-73. The quantities shown as bonuses for blending are the approximate quantities mills would use if they took full advantage of the bonus. The bonus for coarse wools is based on the reported consumption of grades 36s-44s and fine carpet wool from April through November 1942. Estimates were made for later months. Here, too, the estimates are based on the assumption that mills take full advantage of the bonus provisions. The bonus shown for the use of coarse wools does not include alpaca and llama fibers as consumption data are not available for those fibers.

Estimated maximum civilian quota for the 13-month period ending January 31, 1943 is about 170 million pounds (scoured basis) for the woolen and worsted industries and 46 million pounds for the manufacture of floor coverings. It is doubtful that this quantity was used. Some mills were employed almost entirely on Government orders in 1942. Labor shortage and other operating difficulties probably prevented full use of the civilian quotas in these mills. Worsted mills also reported difficulties in preparing and selling blended fabrics during the early months of the program. In the carpet industry, mills which converted to the manufacture of blankets for the armed forces, or cotton duck and other military fabrics, probably did not use their civilian wool quotas.

Under the percentages announced December 10, the estimated maximum civilian quota for the 6-months period, February-July 1943, is 84 million pounds (scoured basis) for the woolen and worsted sections and 18 million pounds for the carpet section. This is at a quarterly rate of about 58 percent of the 1935-39 average in the apparel section and 38 percent in the carpet section. The December 10 order provides that any part of a

mill's quota which is not used during one rationing period may be carried over to increase the quota for the following period. Government orders for worsted fabrics have been relatively small in the last few months and it seems likely that worsted mills having an unused balance will be able to increase their production of civilian fabrics in the first half of 1943.

Blending Materials Used by the Wool
Manufacturing Industries

To produce adequate yardage from curtailed wool supplies, mills will be obliged to resort to a greater production of fabrics in which new wool is blended with reworked and reused wool and with other raw materials. Adequate supplies of blending fibers are available, according to the War Production Board. The woolen system always has used a large quantity of blending materials. The worsted system on the other hand has produced chiefly all wool fabrics and was hesitant in introducing blending on a wide scale.

Principal materials consumed in the woolen and worsted industries in 1935-39, as reported in the biennial Census of Manufactures, are shown in table 10. In 1939 mills used 63 million pounds of mill waste and noils, and 98 million pounds of recovered fiber with 316 million pounds of wool and mohair (scoured weight) and 27 million pounds of other raw fibers (cotton, silk, etc.). In addition to the relatively small quantities of cotton shown here, however, cotton was consumed in the form of yarns purchased from cotton mills. Woolen and worsted mills reported the consumption of 42 million pounds of yarns spun on the cotton system in 1937. Data are not available for 1939.

Data on sales and production of wool cloth by 119 mills reporting to the National Association of Wool Manufacturers show a sharp decline in production of fabrics for civilian use in 1942 compared with the high rate of 1941, and 1942 production also was considerably smaller than in other recent years. See table 11.

Table 10.- Principal materials consumed in the woolen and
worsted and carpet industries, United States;
Biennial Census of Manufactures, 1935-39

Item	: Woolen and worsted : : manufactures 1/ :			: Wool carpet and rug : manufactures 1/ :		
	1935	1937	1939	1935	1937	1939
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Raw fibers, scoured weight :						
Shorn and pulled wool 2/	305.5	271.5	296.8	97.7	106.1	110.5
Mohair	27.7	17.0	19.3)		0.6	---
Other hair	4.1	6.3	6.8)		3.7	6.7
Cotton	12.5	19.5	9.3)	11.6	3/	3.7
Rayon staple	0.2	15.6	10.6)		4/	0.2
Silk	0.7	4/	0.1)		4/	4/
Other fibers	---	2.7	0.1)		1.2	0.1
Other materials :						
Noils and mill waste :						
Wool	51.3	49.3	45.7)		1.5	1.4
Mohair	2.3	2.3	1.6)		4/	4/
Rayon	13.3	12.9	5.4)	1.4	0.3	0.9
Cotton	7.9	9.9	6.5)		4/	4/
Silk	3.5	1.5	1.2)		4/	4/
Other	---	4.7	2.6)		0.8	5/
Recovered fiber, clippings and rags :						
Wool or part wool .....	)	100.6	87.0)			
Rayon .....	)114.5	5.5	10.6)	1.4	4.4	3.7
Other .....	)	4.9	---)		

1/ Totals do not include raw fibers and other materials contained in yarns and tops produced in other manufacturing systems and purchased by mills in the woolen and worsted industry and carpet industry., e. g., cotton yarns and rayon yarns spun in the cotton and rayon industries and jute yarns from the jute goods industries. In 1937 woolen and worsted mills reported consumption of 42 million pounds of yarn spun on the cotton system. Such yarns would be entirely or in chief part cotton. Data are not available for 1939.

2/ In addition to the raw wool consumed in the woolen and worsted and carpet industries the following quantities were consumed in other textile industries:

Industry	1935	1937	1939
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Cotton, rayon and silk	n.s.r.	4.5	3.2
Knit goods	5.9	5.4	3.5

- 3/ Not reported.
- 4/ If any, included with other fibers.
- 5/ Less than 50,000 pounds.

Table 11.- Wool cloth: Net sales and production by 119 mills, United States, weekly averages, 1938-42

Year and month	Mens' wear fabrics			Womens' wear fabrics	
	Net sales		Production	Net	Production
	Government	Civilian	1/	sales	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	linear	linear	linear	linear	linear
	yards	yards	yards	yards	yards
Weekly averages					
1938	34	1,689	1,519	1,268	1,193
1939	47	1,976	2,204	1,430	1,455
1940	867	1,725	2,025	1,314	1,272
1941	1,589	2,213	3,377	1,481	1,526
1942 2/					
January	856	1,064	4,294	1,278	1,375
February	3,421	1,217	4,026	941	1,398
March	407	2,165	4,096	1,170	1,298
April 3/	10,412	1,616	4,314	1,483	1,074
May	1,142	426	4,335	414	1,084
June	2,349	277	4,268	292	1,011
July 3/	790	645	4,278	621	911
August	834	400	4,284	731	977
September 3/	2,863	882	4,142	1,001	896
Jan.-Sept. 1942	2,727	972	4,228	893	1,102

Compiled from Monthly Statistics of Wool Manufacture published by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. The 119 reporting mills were equipped with 26,000 looms, about 60 percent of all looms in the woolen and worsted industries.

1/ Includes Government and civilian fabrics. No separate figures available.

2/ Figures for 1942 are approximate.

3/ April, July, and September are 5-week periods, other months are 4-week periods.

Livestock: Marketings and slaughter statistics, by species,
December 1942, with comparisons

Item	Unit	Jan.-Nov.			1941		1942	
		1940	1941	1942	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	
Cattle and calves -								
Number slaughtered under								
Federal inspection:								
Steers	Thous.	4,496	4,986	5,612	473	352		
Cows and heifers	"	4,022	4,494	5,310	498	628		
All cattle	"	8,898	9,941	11,365	1,004	1,018	982	
Percentage cows and heifers								
are of total cattle	Pct.	45.2	45.2	46.7	49.6	61.7		
Calves	Thous.	4,922	5,004	5,284	457	501	476	
Average live weight:								
Cattle	Lb.	941	959	953	976	932		
Calves	"	191	196	208	196	230		
Total dressed weight:								
Cattle	Mil.lb.	4,548	5,212	5,853	527	486		
Calves	"	522	550	614	49	63		
Shipments of feeder cattle and								
calves to seven Corn Belt								
States 1/	Thous.	1,946	1,708	1,872	189	314		
Hogs -								
Number slaughtered under								
Federal inspection	"	44,335	40,753	47,119	5,767	5,023	6,778	
Average live weight	Lb.	233	241	245	239	245		
Percentage packing sows are of								
all purchases at seven markets	Pct.	12	11	13	7	10	8	
Total production under								
Federal inspection:								
Pork	Mil.lb.	5,843	5,563	6,608	782	722		
Lard 2/	"	1,345	1,336	1,506	190	146		
Average yield per hog:								
Pork	Lb.	132.6	137.7	141.1	135.9	144.0		
Lard 2/	"	30.4	32.9	32.0	33.1	29.0		
Storage stocks end of month:								
Pork	Mil.lb.	---	---	---	469	292	3/488	
Lard 2/	"	---	---	---	187	57	3/91	
Sheep and lambs -								
Number slaughtered under								
Federal inspection	Thous.	15,935	16,554	19,450	1,571	2,126	2,175	
Average live weight	Lb.	86	88	89	91	87		
Total dressed weight	Mil.lb.	643	684	792	66	83		
Shipments of feeder lambs to								
seven Corn Belt States 1/	Thous.	3,221	3,081	3,352	122	452		
Total dressed weight of live-								
stock slaughtered under								
Federal inspection	Mil.lb.	13,401	13,838	15,934	1,684	1,553		

1/ Total shipments direct and from public stockyards to Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska.

2/ Including rendered pork fat.

3/ Preliminary.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted), by species,
December 1942, with comparisons

Item	1941		Dec.		1942		
	annual	1924-29	1940	1941	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	: average	: average	: Dol.	: Dol.	: Dol.	: Dol.	: Dol.
<u>Cattle and calves -</u>							
Beef steers sold out of first hands at Chicago:							
Choice and Prime	12.23	13.84	13.92	13.42	15.32	16.77	16.09
Good	11.36	11.97	11.86	12.41	15.07	15.40	14.90
Medium	10.02	10.39	9.62	11.04	13.10	13.44	13.30
Common	8.64	8.76	7.83	9.17	10.78	10.67	10.87
All grades	11.33	11.09	11.85	12.57	15.21	15.30	14.85
Good grade cows at Chicago	8.43	7.92	7.25	8.69	12.21	12.56	12.63
Vealers, Good and Choice at Chicago	12.17	12.24	10.56	12.84	14.50	14.50	14.56
Stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City	9.93 1/	9.04	8.76	10.46	11.83	12.62	12.24
Average price paid by packers							
All cattle	9.14	8.04	7.97	9.72	10.79	10.84	2/
Steers	10.67	2/	10.45	11.82	13.30	13.73	2/
Calves	10.12	9.84	8.09	10.38	11.57	11.66	2/
<u>Hogs -</u>							
Average market price at Chicago:							
Barrows and gilts	9.47	2/	6.37	10.75	14.97	13.94	14.03
Sows	9.34	2/	5.53	9.89	15.00	14.03	13.84
All purchases	9.45	9.70	6.27	10.65	14.98	13.96	14.01
Average price paid by packers	9.42	9.66	6.11	10.55	14.67	13.66	2/
Average price No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago 3/	70.4	88.2	61.5	75.9	77.3	80.5	89.4
Hog-corn price ratio at Chicago 4/	13.4	11.4	10.2	14.0	19.4	17.3	15.7
<u>Sheep and lambs -</u>							
Slaughter lambs, Good and Choice grade at Chicago	11.32	14.04	9.43	12.16	14.32	14.74	15.47
Feeding lambs, Good and Choice grade at Omaha	---	13.03	8.57	11.25	12.20	12.35	13.12
Ewes, Good and Choice grade at Chicago	5.43	6.45	4.39	6.07	5.78	6.12	7.69
Average price paid by packers for sheep and lambs	10.16	12.99	8.63	10.93	10.98	11.64	2/
Index retail meat prices 5/	92.4	99.2	83.7	95.5	112.8	113.4	2/
Index income of industrial workers 6/	129.6	99.8	106.5	150.1	195.6	205.6	2/

1/ 1925-29 average; not available prior to 1925.

2/ Not available.

3/ Cents per bushel.

4/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

5/ Bureau of Labor Statistics, converted to 1924-29 base.

6/ Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1924-29 = 100. Revised December 1942.

Wool: Mill consumption and machine activity, United States,
selected periods, 1940-42

Item	Aggregate				Weekly average		
	1940		1941		Nov. 1941	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1942
	1940		1941		1941	1942	1942
	1,000		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Mill consumption							
(revised basis) ^{4/}							
Grease basis ^{5/} -							
Apparel wool	639,618	967,685	882,591	969,100	19,822	21,574	21,524
Domestic	486,756	493,934	444,563	478,319	11,482	12,224	13,035
Foreign							
(duty paid)	152,862	473,751	438,028	490,781	8,340	9,350	8,489
Carpet wool -							
Foreign							
(duty free)	138,746	199,453	183,158	55,351	3,817	1,080	1,039
Scoured basis -							
Apparel wool	309,163	509,014	465,344	514,981	10,165	11,275	11,101
Carpet wool	98,708	138,917	127,214	39,940	2,675	810	761
	Weekly average in hours						
Machine activity							
Hours per available							
machine -							
Worsted combs	55.1	86.7	86.1	89.6	87.2	84.3	80.3
Bradford	43.5	74.9	74.0	76.7	76.9	68.8	67.8
French	79.4	110.6	110.7	114.3	107.7	114.1	104.0
Worsted spindles ...	37.7	61.0	60.5	58.9	62.4	60.9	59.6
Woolen spindles ...	43.2	63.8	63.5	74.4	66.0	76.9	74.9
Worsted and							
woolen looms -							
Broad	39.0	61.4	60.7	70.8	63.7	70.9	67.7
Narrow	13.6	31.7	31.7	34.5	36.2	39.0	33.6
Carpet and rug							
looms -							
Broad	37.9	50.8	50.9	41.3	51.6	39.4	37.7
Narrow	21.9	30.8	30.9	22.8	29.3	20.0	19.5

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

^{1/} The January-November period covers 48 weeks in 1941 and 47 weeks in 1942. Hence the totals are not comparable.

^{2/} 4-week period.

^{3/} Revised.

^{4/} New basis adopted by the Bureau of the Census in January 1942. Apparel wool includes all domestic wools and all duty paid foreign wools. Carpet wool includes only foreign wools entered free of duty for the manufacture of floor covering, press cloth, knit or felt boots or lumbermen's socks. In this table data for 1940 and 1941 have been adjusted to the new basis.

^{5/} Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool, grease basis, is in condition received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

Prices per pound of wool and other textile raw materials in
the United States, selected periods, 1940-42

Item	Average			1941		1942	
	1940	1941	1942	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Boston market -							
Territory, scoured basis -							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) staple							
combing	96.3	108.8	119.1	115.5	119.0	119.0	119.0
56s (3/8 blood) combing	79.7	91.2	102.6	96.8	103.5	103.5	103.5
46s (low 1/4 blood)	76.1	82.3	90.7	86.5	91.5	91.5	92.6
Bright fleece, greasy -							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) delaine ...	38.0	43.1	47.2	45.3	47.0	47.0	47.0
56s (3/8 blood) combing	41.2	46.8	51.8	51.2	53.5	54.0	53.0
46s (low 1/4 blood)	41.0	46.5	49.8	50.0	49.5	49.5	49.5
Foreign wool - in bond							
at Boston 1/ -							
Sydney - scoured basis -							
64s, 70s, good combing	67.9	72.7	78.1	74.2	79.0	79.0	79.0
Cape - scoured basis -							
12 months, combing	62.9	70.9	75.6	72.0	76.5	76.5	76.5
Montevideo - grease basis -							
Merinos (60-64s)	31.2	40.4	43.0	43.4	43.0	43.0	43.0
1s (56s)	32.4	38.6	42.5	45.5	42.2	42.2	42.2
Prices received by farmers,							
grease basis, 15th of month ...	28.3	35.5	2/	37.1	39.7	39.7	39.7
Textile fibers:							
Wool, territory fine staple 3/	96.3	108.8	119.1	115.5	119.0	119.0	119.0
Cotton, 15/16" Middling 4/ ...	10.17	13.92	19.29	17.26	18.89	19.27	19.67
Rayon yarn, 150 denier 5/	53.0	53.6	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0
Rayon staple fiber 6/							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0

Compiled from reports of the Food Distribution Administration except as otherwise noted.

1/ Before payment of duty. Compiled from the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

2/ Not available at this time.

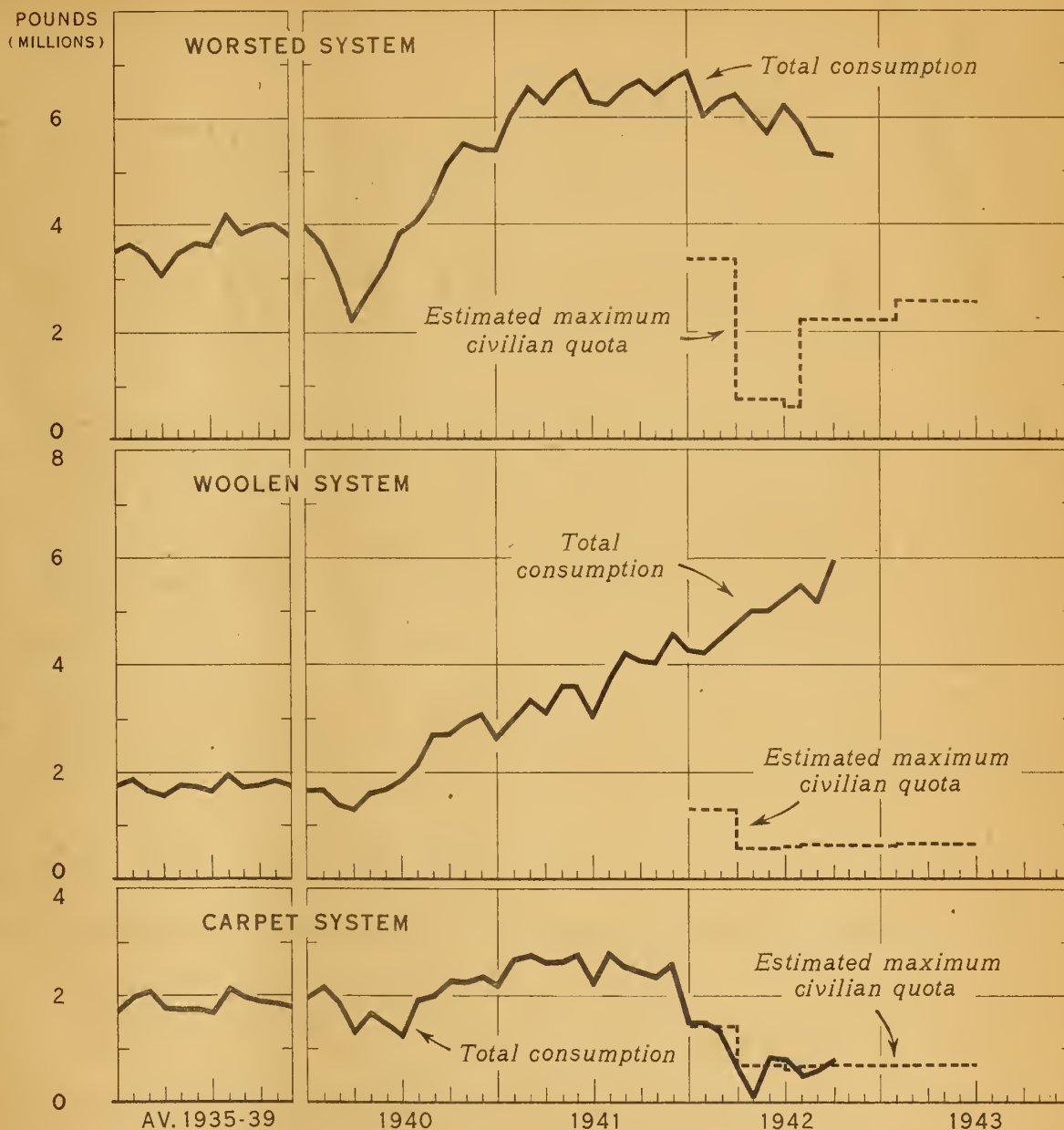
3/ Scoured basis, Boston market.

4/ Average at 10 markets.

5/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

6/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WOOL, SCOURED BASIS: TOTAL MILL CONSUMPTION AND
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM QUOTAS FOR CIVILIAN USE,
BY SYSTEMS, AVERAGE 1935-39, AND 1940-43
(WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR EACH MONTH)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 42828

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Figure 2.- Mill consumption of apparel wool has been at a record high level throughout most of the past 2 years due to large military orders. Since early 1942, consumption for civilian uses has been limited to specific percentages of consumption in the first half of 1941. The wool quotas for use in the manufacture of civilian goods shown in this chart are the estimated maximum amounts permitted by the wool conservation order of January, 1942, as amended. The quantity of wool used for civilian goods during 1942 was roughly one-half the 1935-39 average.

